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SECT 01 OF 75094

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SUBJECT: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)
2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. TITLE: (U) PUBLIC ORDER-HUMAN RIGHTS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS
4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 7805
6. DATE OF REPORT: 780530
7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780522
8. REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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9. ASSESSMENT: SI CE [redacted]

10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT

12. PREPARING OFFICER: [redacted]

Sec. 3.3(b) (1);(b)(3):10 USC 424

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY: [redacted]

(b)(3):10 USC 424

14. SOURCE: [redacted]

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC NO = NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVERNMENT.

16. SUMMARY: [redacted] RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE MAJOR DETERRENT TO IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. PERCEPTION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOG IS MORE EFFECTIVE WITH USG THAN WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. CONCERN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WILL APPEAR TO HAVE WORSENED DURING PERIOD OF WORLD CUP SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS.

22. DETAILS: 1. [redacted] ON 780522 RD WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A LUNCHEON WITH THREE SENIOR ARGENTINE AIR FORCE (ARGAF) OFFICERS WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARGAF AS A PART OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

2. [redacted] SOURCE RUSED THROUGH THE PLEASANTRIES AND GOT TO THE TOPIC OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. SOURCE SAID THAT THE GOA IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS, BUT THAT UNTIL THE WAR AGAINST ACTIVE SUBVERSION HAD BEEN COMPLETED, THENEEDS OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION, AS ARTICULATE IN THE GOA STRUGGLE AGAINST SUBVERSION, WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF SOME INDIVIDUALS. SOURCE SAID THAT HE FEELS THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS THE ANOMALIES OF THE PAST TWO YEARS. SOURCE THEN AVOIDED THE USUAL LITANY OF JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EXCESSES THAT HAVE OCCURRED, AND THE PLEA FOR UNDERSTANDING BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. RATHER, SOURCE STATED THAT THE EXCESSES HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE GOA AS A REALITY F THE PAST THAT MUST BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE, IF THE MILITAR IS TO RETAIN ITS LEGITIMACY AMONG THE ARGENTINE POPULA SOUCE SAID THAT ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO THE GOA HAD BEGUN

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ACTIVELY TIGHTEN ITS GRIP ON BOTH MILITARY AND POLICE ELEMENTS THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SUBVERSION. SOUCE ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME ELEMENTS THAT RESIST INSTRUCTIONS TO RETURN TO LEGAL PROCESS. HE SAID THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR'S PUBLIC CALL FOR THE POLICE TO RETURN TO LEGAL PROCEDURES WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE PROCESS, AND THAT AS IMILAR DECLARATION HAD BEEN MADE WITHIN THE MILITARY.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE TOLD RO THAT THE GOA RECOGNIZED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS THE MAJOR DETERRENT TO MORE POSITIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN A DETERMINED EFFORT BY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY TO ISOLATE THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP FROM THE DETERIORATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, THIS HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL. SOURCE SAID THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP COULD NOT BE ISOLATED BECUASE OF THE US MILITARY'S DEDICATION TO THE POLICIES OF ITS GOVERNMENT, AND THE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN MILITARY INTERACTION AS A RESULT OF THE EMBARGO ON ARMS AND TRAINING TRANSFER. SOURCE TOLD RO THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT, THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION WAS PERVASIVEIN ALL ASPECTS OF US-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONS. SOURCE ADDED THAT THE GOA HAD PERCEIVED ORIGINALLY THAT IT COULD RIDE OUT THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS, AND WHERE NECESSARY, COULD GO TO OTHER SOURCES FOR WEAPONS AND NON-MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND FINANCING. SOURCE SAID THAT HIS PERCEPTION WAS CORRECT; THERE ARE AMPLE NON-AMERICAN SOURCES FOR ALMOST EVERY ITEM OR SERVICES THAT THE GOA NEEDS.

4. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ MORE RECENTLY, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THERE HAS BEEN A RE-EVALUATION, WITH THE GOA, OF THE MASSIVE TILT TOWARD EUROPE FOR GOODS AND SERVICES. THE CONCERN IS THAT THIS ACTION WOULD BRING WITH IT A DOCTRINAL AND CUSTOMER DEPENDENCE THAT IS NOT AS CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH GOA PHILOSOPHY AND DOCTRINE AS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. SOURCE SAID THAT DESPITE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE FEELS ARGENTINA IS CLOSER TO THE UNITED STATES THAT IT IS TO EUROPE, AND HE FEELS THE GOA HAS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS AND WORK OUT ITS PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES THAN IT DOES WITH EUROPEAN NATIONS. SOURCE SAID, "AT LEAST WE CAN TALK WITH YOU ABOUT OUR DISAGREEMENTS, AND TRY TO WORK THEM OUT. WE DON'T FEEL WE CAN TALK AS EASILY WITH MOST OF OUR EUROPEAN CONTACTS."

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SOURCE ALLUDED TO THE POLITICAL SWING TOWARD THE LEFT IN
EUROPE, AND THE FACT THAT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES
PURCHASED FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES MIGHT BE LESS
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P 311412Z MAY 78
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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
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RULYVGA/USCOMSOLANT
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RELIABLE IN THE LONG-RUN THAN THOSE OF US ORIGIN.
SOURCE THEN ADDED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS THAT HE VIEWS THE
CESSATION OF TRAINING IN THE US AS SUCH A SERIOUS MATTER,
IS THAT THE CHANNELS WHICH PERMIT DIALOG BETWEEN THE
NATIONS ARE CONSTRUCTED, TO A GREAT DEGREE, BY THE
EXPERIENCES THAT BOTH CIVILIANS AND MILITARY HAVE WHILE ON
TRAINING OR ORIENTATION TRIPS TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. [redacted] SOURCE THEN OUTLINED THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION AS HE UNDERSTANDS IT IS PERCEIVED IN WASHINGTON.
SOURCE STATED THAT HE IS VERY AWARE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS

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IMAGE OF ARGENTINA AS PRESENTED BY WASHINGTON MEDIA IS PROBABLY MORE INFLUENTIAL ON USG DECISIONS CONCERNING BILATERAL RELATIONS THAN IS REPORTING THAT COMES FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. SOURCE SAID THAT, IN HIS JUDGEMENT, THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS. STATISTICS CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DETAINED SHOW IMPROVEMENT, AND THE POLICY GUIDANCE ITSELF HAS BEEN CHANGED. SOURCE SAID THAT THE IMPROVEMENT HE PERCEIVES HAS NOT BEEN REFLECTED IN THE WASHINGTON PRESS, AND THEREFORE THE USG'S FLEXIBILITY IS REDUCED. SOURCE HIGHLIGHTED THE MEDIA REACTION TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO FRENCH NUNS, AND THE RUMORS THAT THEIR BODIES HAD BEEN FOUND, AS THE TYPE OF MEDIA INFORMATION THAT HIDES THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE GOA TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. SOURCE ADDED QUICKLY THAT THE GOA CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES ARE NOT THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM THE USG, BUT RATHER THE RESULT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN ARGENTINA. IN RESPONSE TO AN RO QUESTION, SOURCE SAID THAT USG PRESSURES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE GOA WHEN IT SETS POLICIES, BUT NEITHER THIS GOVERNMENT, NOR ANY OTHER ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, COULD EVEN APPEAR TO BE SETTING DOMESTIC POLICY BASED ON PRESSURES FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES. SOURCE SAID THAT THE USG CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN ARGENTINA NOW MORE CLOSELY PARALLEL THE CONCERNS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE GOA IS NOW IN A BETTER POSITION TO TAKE ACTIONS IN THE REALM OF PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS. SOURCE ADDED, AFTER A MOMENT OF REFLECTION, THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF THE WORLD CUP SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS, IT MAY APPEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RETURN TO THE DAYS OF MORE FORCEFUL SECURITY MEANSURES AND REPRESSION. SOURCE SAID THAT THE SECURITY MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT A TERRORIST SPECTACULAR DURING THE WORLD CUP ARE A RETURN TO SECURITY MEASURES IN FORCE ABOUT A YEAR AGO, BUT THAT THESE MEASURES ARE OF A TEMPORARY NATURE ONLY. AFTER THE WORLD CUP, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GOA TO RETURN TO ITS POLICY OF GRADUALLY REPLACING DUE PROCESS FOR THE SECURITY METHODS USED DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE BATTLE AGAINST SUBVERSION.

6. [redacted] SOURCE THEN DESCRIBED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL BE FACING THE GOA DURING THE WORLD CUP. SOURCE SAID THAT THE GOA'S ABILITY TO CONTROL ITS SECURITY FORCES

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WOULD BE SEVERELY TESTED, AND THAT THERE WILL BE MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN PRESS, THAT WILL BE WATCHING INTENTLY TO PUBLICIZE ANY ERRORS OR EXCESSES. SOURCE NOTED THAT THE GOA HAS INFORMATION THAT SEVERAL EUROPEAN NEWS AGENCIES HAVE OFFERED THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES ABUSING SPECTATORS DURING THE WORLD CUP. SOURCE FEARED THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF 25 EMOTION-PACKED DAYS OF INTERNATIONAL SOCCER, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE THAT THE SECURITY FORCES WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST UNRULY SOCCER FANS. SOURCE FEARS THAT SOME MEDIA PERSONNEL WILL REPRESENT THE POLICE REACTION TO DISORDERLY SOCCER FANS AS TYPICAL OF THE DAY-TO-DAY POLICE TREATMENT OF ARGENTINE CITIZENS.

COMMENT: [redacted] SOURCE INDICATES THAT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY IS RE-EVALUATING THE WISDOM OF A HEAD-LONG PLUNGE INTO THE EUROPEAN MARKET FOR THE ARMS THAT IT CAN NOT PURCHASE IN THE US. APPARENTLY THE GOA, OR THE ARGENTINE MILITARY, CONSIDERS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IS IMPROVING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, AS A RESULT OF CHANGES IN THE DOMESTIC SITUATION. THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL, IN SOURCE'S OPINION, BRING MORE POSITIVE RELATIONS WITH THE US. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RE-EVALUATION WITHIN THE MILITARY COMMUNITY CONCERNING US-GOA RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO EVALUATE WHAT THE CHANGE INCLUDES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY HAS BACKED AWAY FROM A COMPLETE IMMERSION IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET BASED ON A PERCEPTION THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA MAY OPEN US MARKETS AGAIN. THIS CHANGE IN ATTITUDE WILL PROVIDE THE USG WITH A LIMITED AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE WITH THE GOA, BUT SOURCE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE GOA, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, CANNOT APPEAR TO BE CHANGING ITS POLICIES AND PRACTICES CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURES FROM THE US. AS THE WORLD CUP APPROACHES REALITY, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING EVIDENCE OF SECURITY FORCES IN THE STREETS, BUT NOT YET IN UNIT STRENGTH. THE COMMENTS BY SOURCE INDICATE THAT GOA IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE PUBLIC IMAGE BALANCE THEY MUST MAINTAIN BETWEEN PROVIDING ADEQUATE SECURITY TO PROTECT AGAINST TERRORIST SPECTACULARS, AND HAVING SUCH AN OBVIOUS AND OVERBEARING PRESENCE THAT THEY RECEIVE

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